

REMARKS

Claims 1-28 are pending in the application. By this Amendment, claims 1-3, 9, 10 and 20 are amended.

It is noted that the claim amendments are made only for more particularly pointing out the invention, and not for distinguishing the invention over the prior art, narrowing the claims or for any statutory requirements of patentability. Further, Applicant specifically states that no amendment to any claim herein should be construed as a disclaimer of any interest in or right to an equivalent of any element or feature of the amended claim.

With respect to the prior art rejections, claims 1-7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Byrne, et al. (Byrne) (U.S. Patent No. 5,659,598). Claims 20-28 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Williams, et al. (Williams) (U.S. Patent No. 6,363,246). Claims 8-19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Byrne in view of Williams.

The rejections are respectfully traversed in the following discussion.

I. THE CLAIMED INVENTION

The invention as recited in independent claim 1 for example, is directed to a wireless communication terminal including an operating unit, reception field level detecting means for detecting a threshold field level of the received radio wave, a control unit for controlling the terminal, a storage unit, a plurality of wireless communication units each matching a different communication system, and switch-over means for switching over from one to another of the wireless communication units. The terminal selects one of the communication systems on the basis of the reception of the threshold field level of a first communication system that is currently selected and that of another second communication system. (Application at page 2, lines 5-15).

This structure is important because by detecting reception field levels only when a threshold is reached, battery consumption will be decreased and switchover will be faster due to immediate detection of the threshold (Application at page 12, line 25-page 13, line 1).

In a conventional dual mode wireless communication terminal, as described in the Background of the present Application, the terminal periodically detects the reception field level of another communication system, and determines whether or not to switch over from

one communication system to another on the basis of the detected level. Accordingly switch over may be delayed and battery power consumed unnecessarily (Application at page 1, lines 11-25).

In contrast, an exemplary aspect of the claimed invention may switch from one wireless unit to another wireless unit on the basis of the reception field level that is currently selected (Application at page 2, lines 5-15).

None of the applied references discloses or suggests this invention.

II. THE PRIOR ART REJECTIONS

A. The Byrne reference rejection

In rejecting claims 1-7 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Byrne, the Examiner alleges that Byrne discloses all of the features of the rejected claims. However, there are elements of the rejected claims that are not disclosed or suggested by Byrne.

For example, Byrne fails to disclose or suggest a wireless communication terminal including ...reception field level detecting means for detecting a threshold field level of the received radio wave or that the terminal selects one of the communication systems on the basis of the reception of the threshold field level of a first communication system that is currently selected and that of another second communication system.

Byrne discloses a dual mode terminal 20 that is capable of communicating with both GSM (Groupes Speciale Mobile) and DECT (Digital European Cordless Telephone) base stations. The terminal 20 is described as including "all the necessary equipment, such as radio transceivers, for signaling and communicating over the respective radio interface" (col. 4, lines 43-46).

However, when the terminal 20 is in DECT mode, the terminal 20 continually measures the signal strength of the neighboring GSM base stations and stores the measured results. After a low quality connection is detected the stored measurements are accessed and a handover procedure is begun (col. 2, lines 3-34; col. 3, lines 21-62).

Thus, Byrne merely describes one of the problems being addressed in this Application. Specifically, Byrne measures the signal strength of other communication systems at regular intervals and not at a threshold field level.

Instead, in Byrne, when a low quality connection is detected the previously stored measurements are accessed and another communication system is selected based on the

previously stored measurements.

As Byrne fails to disclose or suggest all of the claimed features, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

B. The Williams reference rejection

In rejecting claims 20-28 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Williams, the Examiner alleges that Williams discloses all of the features of the rejected claims. However, there are elements of the rejected claims that are not disclosed or suggested by Williams.

For example, Williams fails to disclose or suggest a control method for a wireless communication terminal permitting use of a plurality of communication systems, including initiating detection of a reception field level of a second communication system when the reception field level of a first communication system that is currently selected is at or below a prescribed threshold, and selecting either communication system on the basis of the reception field levels of said two communication systems.

Williams discloses a call routing method that allows a radiotelephone to transmit and receive telephone calls in both a cellular and a cordless system. The system of Williams provides that the portable cellular cordless radiotelephone (PCC) 101 can determine whether the user's cellular or landline telephone number has call routing priority. As part of the determination to switch between the cellular line and the land line, a scan process is conducted to locate an available and acceptable base station.

At Fig. 12 of Williams, a flowchart of the process used in scan priority is shown. The process includes measuring and recording a signal to determine if the signal is from a cellular telephone call or a cordless telephone call (steps 1205, 1207, 1211). If a determination is made that the signal is neither a cellular telephone call (No at step 1207) nor a cordless telephone call (No at step 1211), a determination is made of the signal strength of the channel compared to a threshold level. If the signal strength is determined to be below a threshold level, then the channel is tagged as being available for use. Channels above the threshold are tagged as having an unidentified signal and not available to avoid potential interference (col. 14, lines 17-52).

Thus, Williams merely discloses a priority scanning technique to determine available channels for switching channels. Thus, Williams does not disclose or suggest initiating

detection of a reception field level of a second communication system when the reception field level of a first communication system that is currently selected is at or below a prescribed threshold.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

C. The Byrne and Williams reference rejection

In rejecting dependent claims 8-15 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Byrne in view of Williams, the Examiner alleges that the combination of references discloses all of the features of the rejected claims.

Claims 8-15 are allowable for their dependency on independent claim 1 for the reasons discussed above, as well as for the additional features recited therein. Moreover, as Williams fails to overcome the deficiencies of Byrne, the combination of references fails to disclose or suggest all of the features recited in the rejected claims.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

IV. CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicant submits that claims 1-28, all the claims presently pending in the application, are patentably distinct over the prior art of record and are in condition for allowance. The Examiner is respectfully requested to pass the above application to issue at the earliest possible time.

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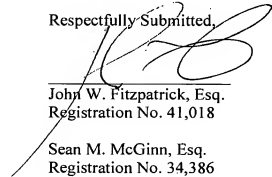
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Should the Examiner find the application to be other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the local telephone number listed below to discuss any other changes deemed necessary in a telephonic or personal interview.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in fees or to credit any overpayment in fees to Attorney's Deposit Account No. 50-0481.

Date: 5/16/07

Respectfully Submitted,


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